

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 AID-05 /076 W  
-----114930 132036Z /61

R 121240Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5649  
INFO USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0962

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, SCUL, ETRD, LY, AF, IR  
SUBJECT: LIBYA BOOSTS RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. RESULTS OF WEEK LONG VISIT OF AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER  
SULTAN ALI KESHTMAND TO TRIPOLI WHICH BEGAN JULY 4 ARE VIEWED  
HERE AS MODEST BUT NONETHELESS SIGNIFICANT ATTEMPT BY LIBYA TO  
DEVELOP CLOSER TIES WITH WHAT IS VIEWED AS A "PROGRESSIVE" AND  
POTENTIALLY ANTI-SHAH GOVERNMENT IN KABUL. KESHTMAND'S VISIT  
HAS BEEN ACCORDED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRESS.  
MUCH OF HIS TIME HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO WORKING OUT DETAILS FOR  
TWO ACCORDS SIGNED JULY 8, ALTHOUGH THE MINISTER DROPPED IN  
ON LIBYAN NUMBER TWO JALUD FOR A PHOTOGRAPH AND A CHAT.

2. THE FIRST OF THE TWO COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY  
KESHTMAND AND HIS LIBYAN COUNTERPART, PLANNING SECRETARY  
MUSA ABU FURAYWAH, DEALS WITH THE ECONOMIC, TRADE AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL SPHERES AND SECOND WITH CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND INFORMATION FIELDS. ACCORDING TO A COMMUNIQUE  
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ISSUED BY JANA, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO ESTABLISH A JOINT  
COMPANY FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.  
THEY ALSO AGREED TO ESTABLISH ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTERS  
IN AFGHANISTAN (NOTE: LIBYA CURRENTLY OPERATES A LARGE  
NETWORK OF SUCH CENTERS THROUGHOUT AFRICA AND PARTS OF  
ASIA). FURTHER, THEY AGREED TO THE EXCHANGE OF NEWS BE-

TWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TO THE OPENING OF OFFICES FOR THE AFGHAN AND LIBYAN NEWS AGENCIES IN EACH OTHER'S CAPITAL. RADIO COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREED ON THE NECESSITY OF ENCOURAGING TRADE AND OPENING OF TRADE OFFICES TO INTRODUCE THE PRODUCTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO TRIPOLI BY A MEMBER OF THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME, AND THE SIGNING OF THE NEW ACCORDS CAN BE READ AS AN AFFIRMATION THAT LIBYA IS NOW SATISFIED WITH THE KABUL GOVERNMENT'S "ISLAMIC" AND "PROGRESSIVE" CREDENTIALS. CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO REGIMES ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE IN THE FUTURE. ADDITIONALLY, LIBYA PROBABLY HOPES WARM RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN WILL BENEFIT LIBYA'S INCREASINGLY ANTAGONISTIC POLICY TOWARDS IRAN. LOCAL MEDIA HERE HAVE CONDUCTED VIRULENTLY ANTI-SHAH CAMPAIGN SINCE THE INCREASE IN IRANIAN CIVIL UNREST EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND IN APRIL, LIBYA SPONSORED (MUCH TO IRAQ'S CHAGRIN) AND "ARABISTAN" CONFERENCE CALLING FOR "LIBERATION" OF IRAN'S ARABIC-SPEAKING REGIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LIBYA WILL NOW ATTEMPT TO USE HER GROWING PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN TO FUNNEL MONEY AND MATERIEL TO DISSIDENT GROUPS WITHIN IRAN IN THE HOPE OF FOMENTING FURTHER INSTABILITY, WITH OR WITHOUT KABUL'S APPROVAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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